

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 2, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4 – 11 and 13 – 18 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 8 and 9. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Belkin* in view of *CTG, Alcor, Belkin2* and the *USB 2.0 Specification*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 6, 7, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Belkin* in view of *CTG, Alcor, Belkin2, Le* and the *USB 2.0 Specification*. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 9-11, 13-15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Belkin* in view of *CTG, Alcor, Belkin2* and the *USB 2.0 Specification*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

In this regard, Applicants note that the Office Action has applied disparate teachings of several of the references to similar components recited in Applicants' claims. For instance, with respect to claim 1, the Office Action indicates that the recited "second USB header" is interpreted as "a USB connector" (Office Action at page 3), while indicating that the recited "third USB header" is interpreted as "connective PCB traces" (Office Action at page 3). Additionally, the Office Action notes at page 6 that "Belkin has attached the external USB port via the PCB traces to the third USB header." This seems to indicate that the PCB traces cannot correlate to a USB header. Thus, the Office Action appears to reject the pending claims using inconsistent application of the cited references.

As best understood by Applicant, the pending rejections appear to be more appropriately lodged under 35 U.S.C. 112, in that the inconsistent application of the references

may be due to perceived ambiguity of Applicants' claim language. In this regard, Applicants respectfully assert that the term "USB header" has been used in accordance with its common and ordinary meaning, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. That is, a USB header is a component configured to removably mate with a connector of a corresponding communication cable. Clearly, a PCB trace does not meet the definition of a USB header.

In order to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims in order to clarify what is meant by "USB header," thus, rendering the rejections moot because the references clearly do not involve the combination of features unambiguously recited in the pending claims.

In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. A system for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a computer chassis, the computer chassis internally mounting a motherboard having a ***first USB header, extending outwardly from the motherboard and configured for mating with a connector of a communication cable, for communicating with an external USB port***, said system comprising:
 - a printed wire board (PWB) supporting a second USB header, a third USB header, a USB hub and the internal USB port, the PWB being mountable at a location within the computer chassis;
 - the second USB header operative to communicate with the first USB header;
 - the third USB header operative to communicate with the external USB port;
 - the USB hub operative to communicate information to and from the first USB header of the motherboard via the second USB header, and to communicate information to and from the external USB port via the third USB header;
 - the internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from the motherboard via the USB hub; and
 - a voltage regulator supported by the PWB, the voltage regulator being operative to receive a first voltage output from the motherboard and to provide, in response thereto, a second, lower voltage output to the USB hub;

wherein each of said second header and said third header extends outwardly from the PWB and is configured to removably mate with a connector of a communication cable.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably

suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 6, that claim has been amended to recite:

6. A system for providing an internal Universal Serial Bus (USB) port within a computer chassis, the computer chassis internally mounting a motherboard having a *first USB header, extending outwardly from the motherboard and configured for mating with a connector of a communication cable, for communicating with an external USB port*, said system comprising:

- a printed wire board (PWB) supporting a second USB header, a third USB header, a USB hub and an internal USB port, the PWB being mountable at a location within the computer chassis;
- the second USB header operative to communicate with the first USB header;
- the third USB header operative to communicate with the external USB port;
- the USB hub operative to communicate information to and from the first USB header of the motherboard via the second USB header, and to communicate information to and from the external USB port via the third USB header; and
- the internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from the motherboard via the USB hub;

wherein:

- the chassis has mounts extending into the interior thereof; and
- the PWB has apertures formed therethrough, each of the apertures being operative to receive one of the mounts such that insertion of the mounts into the apertures secures the PWB to the chassis;

wherein each of said second header and said third header extends outwardly from the PWB and is configured to removably mate with a connector of a communication cable.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 6 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably

suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 7 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 6, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 9, that claim has been amended to recite:

9. A computer system comprising:
 - a chassis defining an interior;
 - a first Universal Serial Bus (USB) port externally mounted to the chassis;
 - a motherboard mounted within the interior of the chassis, the motherboard having a first USB header for communicating with the first USB port; and
 - a daughter card mounted within the interior of the chassis, the daughter card communicating with the motherboard and having a second USB port, a USB hub, a second USB header, and a third USB header;
 - the USB hub being operative to communicate information to and from the first USB header of the motherboard via the second USB header of the daughter card, and to communicate information to and from the first USB port via the third USB header of the daughter card;
 - an internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from the motherboard via the USB hub and the second USB header of the daughter card; and
 - a voltage regulator supported by the daughter card, the voltage regulator being operative to receive a first voltage output from the motherboard and to provide, in response thereto, a second, lower voltage output to the USB hub;
 - wherein each said header is configured to removably mate with a connector of a corresponding communication cable.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 9 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 10, 11 and 13 - 15 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 16, that claim has been amended to recite:

16. A computer system comprising:
 - a chassis defining an interior;
 - a first Universal Serial Bus (USB) port externally mounted to the chassis;
 - a motherboard mounted within the interior of the chassis, the motherboard having a first USB header for communicating with the first USB port; and
 - a daughter card mounted within the interior of the chassis, the daughter card communicating with the motherboard and having a second USB port, a USB hub, a second USB header, and a third USB header;
 - the USB hub being operative to communicate information to and from the first USB header of the motherboard via the second USB header of the daughter card, and to communicate information to and from the first USB port via the third USB header of the daughter card; and
 - the internal USB port being operative to communicate information to and from the motherboard via the USB hub and the second USB header of the daughter card;
 - wherein:
 - the system further comprises a mount extending into the interior of the chassis;
 - the daughter card has an aperture for receiving the mount such that insertion of the mount into the aperture secures the daughter card to the chassis; and
 - wherein each said header is configured to removably mate with a connector of a corresponding communication cable.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 16 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

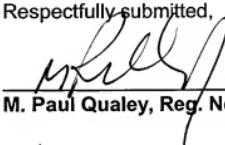
Since claims 17 and 18 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 16, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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